FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIDSPACE TO HOST CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES’ NICCU GRADUATES REUNION

Butterfly-themed celebration on April 2 reunites patients with CHLA physicians and nurses who provided lifesaving care during their critical first moments of life

PASADENA, CA (March 3, 2017) – On Sunday, April 2, 2017, hundreds of patients of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles’ Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation Newborn and Infant Critical Care Unit (NICCU) and their families will gather at Kidspace Children’s Museum for an evening filled with play, fun and laughter. These children, affectionately called NICCU "graduates," all spent crucial days, weeks and months in CHLA’s intensive care unit specially designed to meet the needs of critically ill infants. Approximately 800 patients, parents and loved ones will get a chance to reunite and celebrate with the physicians and nurses who cared for them during these vital early moments of life.

To commemorate the lives and accomplishments of NICCU graduates, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and Kidspace Children’s Museum, a joyful environment that inspires children to learn and grow, have partnered to host the reunion. “I have been practicing medicine for more than 25 years and nothing brings me more joy than seeing our graduates continue to flourish beyond our hospital,” said Philippe Friedlich, M.D., chief of CHLA’s Division of Neonatology and director of the Center for Fetal and Neonatal Medicine. “Our partnership with Kidspace is a perfect match in our holistic mission to treat kids better – CHLA strives to help children reach their full potential by nurturing body and spirit; Kidspace does the same by nurturing imagination and curiosity.”

This event is free to the families and includes dinner. The theme of the NICCU Reunion is butterflies; each NICCU family will be given a butterfly to take home, nurture, and release into the world as a symbol of their beautiful journey to health. Kidspace kid-driven activities will include crafting butterfly wings, making butterfly antenna crowns, and building butterfly feeders. There will be a

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performance representing the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly, as well as roaming
costumed butterfly characters throughout the evening, all in celebration of the lives saved by CHLA.

Kidspace is nationally recognized for their educational programming and indoor/outdoor exhibits that incorporate play learning, which made Kidspace the ideal venue for this celebratory event. “We are honored to partner with the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles as we embrace the needs of the children and families in our community,” said Michael Shanklin, Kidspace Chief Executive Officer. “By hosting the NICU family reunion at Kidspace, we will celebrate alongside the dedicated physicians, nurses, and amazing CHLA support staff as we see children who have blossomed and have successfully navigated their way to great health.”

Sponsorship proceeds from the event will be split equally between the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles NICCU and Kidspace Children’s Museum.

ABOUT KIDSPACE

In 1979, Kidspace Children’s Museum was founded as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Kidspace’s mission is to nurture the potential of all children through kid-driven experiences, inspiring them to become joyful, active learners. Kidspace is located at 480 N. Arroyo Blvd., in Brookside Park, Pasadena, CA. Admission is $13 for adults and children. Free for members and children under one year. For more information about Kidspace exhibits, events, and other activities, please visit kidspacemuseum.org.

ABOUT CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles is dedicated to creating hope and building healthier futures for children. Founded in 1901, CHLA is one of the nation’s leading pediatric academic medical centers and is acknowledged worldwide for its leadership in pediatric and adolescent health. The hospital relies on the generosity of the community to support its groundbreaking pediatric research and the complex care it provides for critically ill and injured children. Find out more at CHLA.org.

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High-res photos and background materials: http://bit.ly/2IETUF1

PRESS PREVIEW

Sunday, April 2, 2017
4:00 – 5:00pm

Please RSVP to Kristen Payne, kpayne@kidspacemuseum.org.